

prevent its spread. Here, however, we are frequently involved in difficulty. The mere mention of the possible spread of a disease until it has gone through the entire family into which it has entered, is often the occasion of such intense alarm that those who have, up to this point, enjoyed immunity from its attack, may be rendered more susceptible through fear. Many cases are recorded in which persons have been attacked by contagious diseases in consequence of their uncontrollable dread of those diseases; and if we admit the intimate sympathy existing between mind and body, we can conceive such an event to be quite within the bounds of possibility. While, therefore, it may be the plain duty of the professional attendant upon a case of typhoid fever not to assume the responsibility of giving a negative reply as to the spread of the disease, it is no less incumbent upon him to announce the possibility of such an event with such qualifications as will not excite undue alarm.

Then, even supposing the opinion as to the production of the disease by influences other than specific, to rest upon only partial proof, it is no less the duty of the profession to recommend such sanitary precautions as will result in the effectual removal of only a doubtful source of its origin and propagation. If, as an illustration of this point, it is found, on examination of the premises where a case has occurred, that there is stagnant water under the house or in the neighborhood, or that the water of the well gives unmistakeable evidence of impurity, or that there are accumulations of filth in the yards connected with the premises, such as are emitting loathsome and pernicious odors, calculated to contaminate the air of the locality, it would be our plain duty to see that all such influences should be removed as speedily as possible. These precautions are often overlooked; and until the profession and the public generally become more fully impressed with their importance, we must expect to see a large amount of suffering which by a judicious observance of sanitary measures, might be avoided. It is gratifying to observe that the preventible causes of disease have recently been occupying a much larger